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THINGS
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ARB

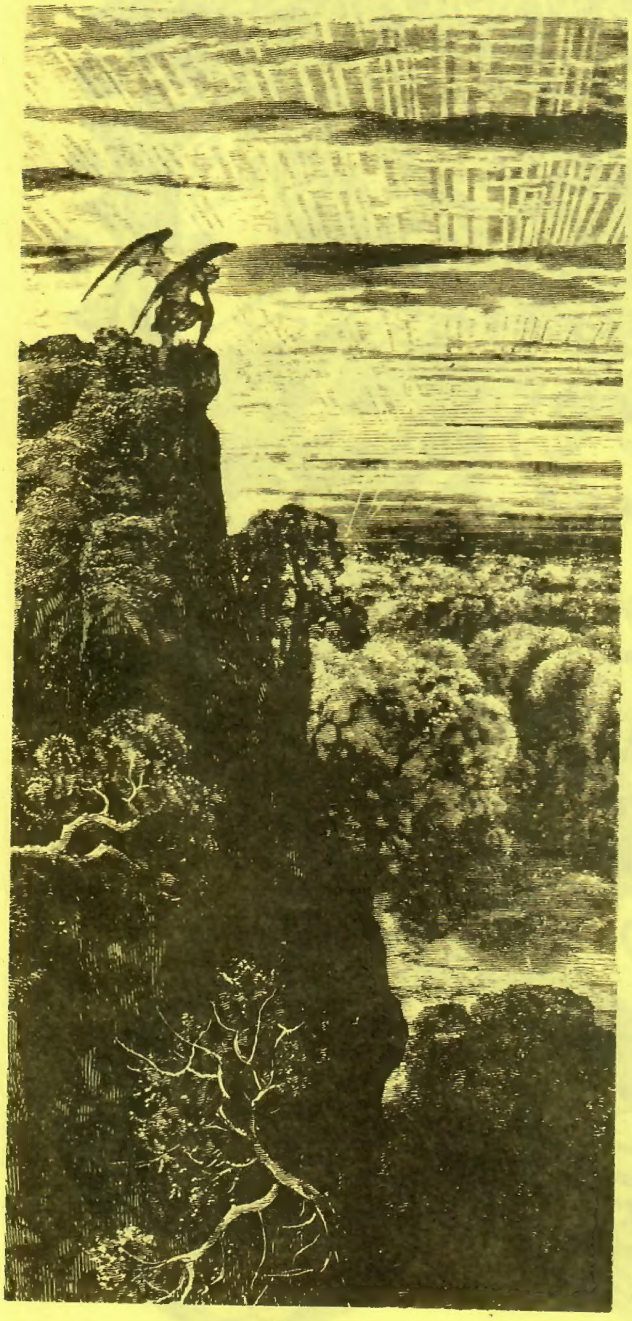
Anomaly Research Bulletin

SPECIAL

NON-LINEAR

ISSUE

ARB was a quarterly journal of Fortean data, theory, and thought///EDITOR: David Fideler///AUTHORS, this issue: Loren Coleman, Wayne Laporte, Martin Riccardo///PRODUCTION: David Fideler, Philip Hemstreet, Beth Weldon///TRAVELLING CORRESPONDENT & OUTSIDE COMMUNIST AGITATOR: Ion Will//////



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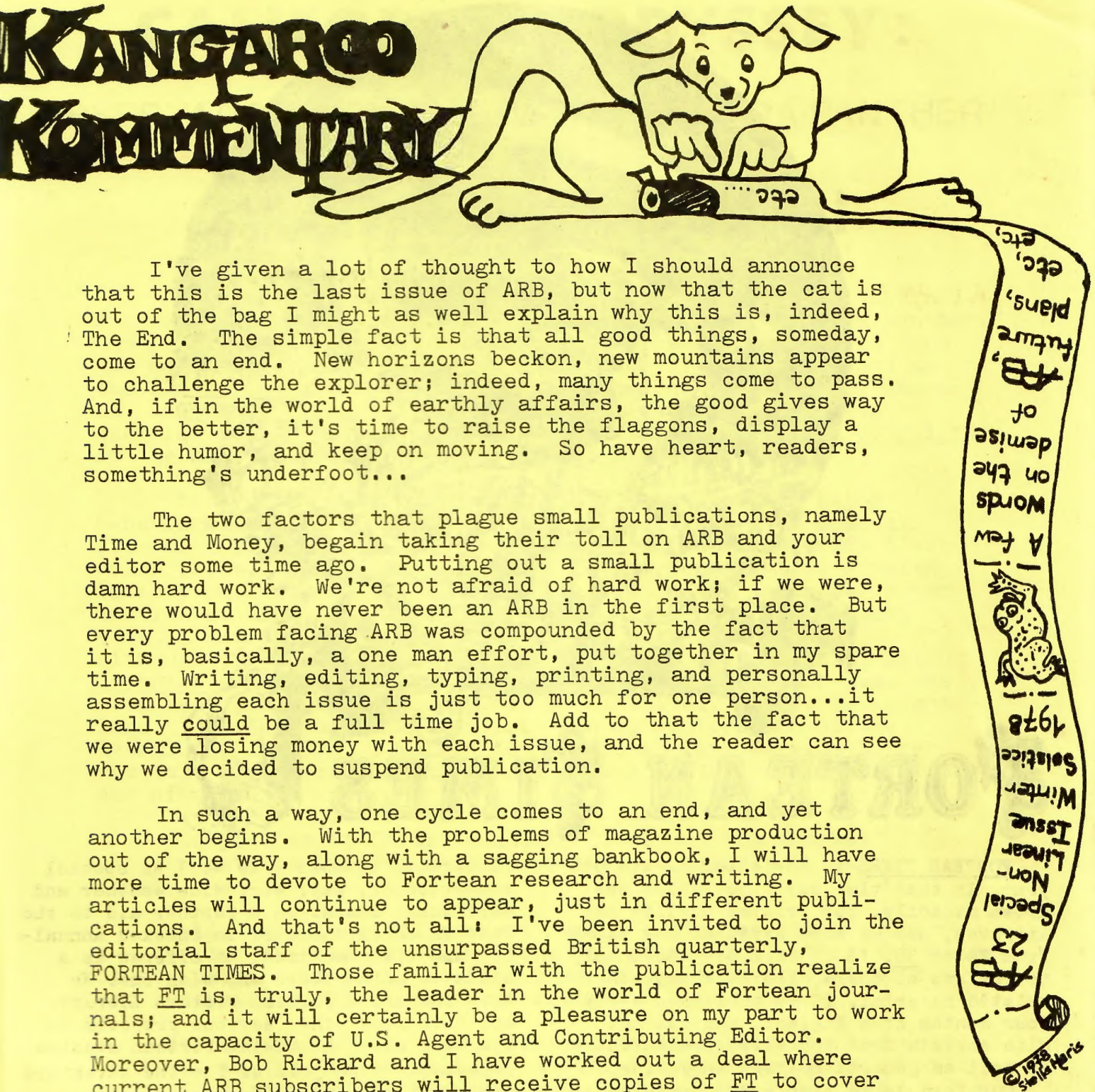
KANGAROO KOMMENTARY


etc....
A few Words on the demise of ARB, future plans, etc, etc,
Special Non-Linear Issue Winter Solstice 1978
23
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I've given a lot of thought to how I should announce that this is the last issue of ARB, but now that the cat is out of the bag I might as well explain why this is, indeed, The End. The simple fact is that all good things, someday, come to an end. New horizons beckon, new mountains appear to challenge the explorer; indeed, many things come to pass. And, if in the world of earthly affairs, the good gives way to the better, it's time to raise the flaggons, display a little humor, and keep on moving. So have heart, readers, something's underfoot...

The two factors that plague small publications, namely Time and Money, begain taking their toll on ARB and your editor some time ago. Putting out a small publication is damn hard work. We're not afraid of hard work; if we were, there would have never been an ARB in the first place. But every problem facing ARB was compounded by the fact that it is, basically, a one man effort, put together in my spare time. Writing, editing, typing, printing, and personally assembling each issue is just too much for one person...it really could be a full time job. Add to that the fact that we were losing money with each issue, and the reader can see why we decided to suspend publication.

In such a way, one cycle comes to an end, and yet another begins. With the problems of magazine production out of the way, along with a sagging bankbook, I will have more time to devote to Fortean research and writing. My articles will continue to appear, just in different publications. And that's not all: I've been invited to join the editorial staff of the unsurpassed British quarterly, FORTEAN TIMES. Those familiar with the publication realize that FT is, truly, the leader in the world of Fortean journals; and it will certainly be a pleasure on my part to work in the capacity of U.S. Agent and Contributing Editor. Moreover, Bob Rickard and I have worked out a deal where current ARB subscribers will receive copies of FT to cover the remainder of their ARB subs. Details, elsewhere this issue...

Finally, we reach the most important part of this last Editorial Message. (Hmmm...there must be a punchline somewhere but I can't think of it!!) Yes, folks, this is where I thank everyone for making ARB possible... It's no secret that without your support, letters, and clippings we couldn't have done it. So a tip of the hat to our gentle readers, the people that really made it happen.

And now, off to the next Caper! -- David Fideler.

FORTEAN TIMES

FORTEAN TIMES is now entering its 5th year. In that time our circulation has grown steadily, our printed quality has improved, and we have expanded our pages from 20 to 52, 12 of them devoted solely to reviews of books, journals and other related material. FT is published every four months from England, and has met with acclaim from top writer/researchers as well as general readers worldwide.

Our formula is simple and centered on news events and clippings. While other journals may have more erudite articles on specialized research, we aim to keep ourselves (and the reader) abreast of news and developments in Fortean affairs generally. Our readers in Europe, South Africa, Australia, the Far East and throughout Britain and the USA keep up a stimulating flow of news-clippings, and we try to highlight any trends, presenting the data fairly. We also have articles on research, philosophy, speculation and historical aspects - as well as special summaries of, say, worldwide weather and earthquake chaos. As a further aid to the Fortean researcher, FT is indexed annually, and the free index is offered as a bonus to subscribers who wish one. We have founded a Fortean Picture Library and have many other serious projects in the wind aimed at making Fortean studies impeccable - so join us for the adventure and we'll dedicate ourselves to giving you the best, most informative and essential Fortean journal that your curiosity buds could ever wish for!

As a special concession to ARB readers we invite them to subscribe at our old rates (offer open to Jan 1979): one year for £6.00, two years for £10.80. Or if you wish to look first, send £2.30 for an airmailed sample copy. See you in FT!

FORTEAN TIMES

Box 1479, Grand Rapids, MI 49501, USA.

CALIFORNIA ODYSSEY:

OBSERVATIONS ON THE WESTERN PARA-PANTHER

BY LOREN COLEMAN

A mystery cat seen in North America is, more often than not, described in news accounts and police reports as a "black panther." Generally, in zoological circles, some license is given to term the melanistic leopard of Asia and Africa (Panthera pardus) as the black panther. However, here in the United States of America, the usual flesh and blood answer to the phantom feline question points toward the puma or mountain lion (Felis concolor) as the critter behind the accounts of big black cats.

The problem remains, nevertheless, that besides being behaviorally worlds apart from the phantom cats, the mountain lion of the New World has never been shown to exhibit the black color phase. Oh yes, there is one report from 1843 of a melanistic puma supposedly having been killed in the Carandahy River Section of Brazil. But no record of what became of the body exists, and the animal may have been a melanistic jaguar. Although various scholars claim the Florida subspecies of Felis concolor tends to be black now and then, not one black puma has ever been photographed, captured or exhibited. Still the sightings of "black panthers" persist. In my exploration of the Everglades in 1978, I talked to a National Park Service Ranger who told of someone having seen a "black panther" two days before our discussion.

The problem of "real" mountain lions and the "unreal" phantom cats is brought into focus ever so clearly in California.

California is a state where recent estimates claim about twenty-five hundred mountain lions may roam. But within the range of the California puma, we find some of the most concentrated and interesting "black panther" reports.

For several years, large black cats have been sighted near Ventura, in the Conejo Valley. A full-fledged hunt for two of these full grown black panthers was conducted in 1964, but things did not come to a peak until 1967. During the afternoon of the 12th of December of that year, Henry Madrid of Montelvo was installing a fence around the Ventura County sewer plant. Henry spotted a black panther pacing restlessly back and forth on the steep mountainside near the treatment facility. He and fellow workers, Dick Simmons, Fred Salinas and Manuel Portillo kept an eye on the panther while the county sheriff deputies were notified. Taking in the situation quickly soon after they arrived, the deputies pointed their squad car in the cat's direction, and bounced off in hot pursuit toward the hillside. The obligingly flat field stretched out before them, but it proved to be merely a thin, dry crust over a bed of sludge. The chase

ended with the police car plunging hood deep into a sea of sickening muck. By the time a tow truck arrived to rescue the deputies from their smelly predicament, the black panther had long disappeared.

This was the first in a series of incidents that led many to believe that the Ventura County black panther was an omen of a sinister nature.

Soon after the deputies' disaster, Kenneth French and his wife saw the black cat on January 9, 1968, near a mountainside while they were out driving. The couple debated whether to report it. "Finally my husband stayed to keep an eye on it while I went to get a sheriff's deputy," Mrs. French later told reporters. "Apparently the cat ran away just after I left. My husband and I aren't the type to report weird things, and it's pretty embarassing to have people think you go around seeing black panthers! Whatever kind of black cat it was, it was bad luck."

The "bad luck" of this black panther was to even trap an airman on a sheer, six hundred foot cliff on the 23rd of December, 1967. It took rescuers four hours to get him down after he went hunting for the panther. Ventura County's black panther was never caught, despite the airman's effort and that of many others.

Not to be outdone in the annals of Californian claims to phantom pantherdom, the accounts from Northern California far outweigh those from the southern portion of the state. All of the sightings from the north are centered around the San Francisco Bay Area.

In Marin County, a survey of the San Rafael newspaper, The Independent Journal, for the years 1957-1975, shows a total of approximately thirty separate sightings of large, mountain lion-like animals. More often than not (75% of the total), the color of the creature is not given, but in fifteen percent of the reports, the cat is said to be definitely black. A confused picture of what is being seen, "black panther" or puma, exists. Further mystery is added when such an incident as the on in June, 1963, when two women collecting watercress at a creek were chased home by a "panther," calls to mind behavior unlike Felis concolor. In March of 1975, a large, powerful-looking "panther" sauntered through downtown Fairfax, California, and jaywalked across the busy Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, leaving townsfolk shuddering in its wake. The Humane Society of Marin attempted to track it down and capture it, but gave up empty-handed. Robert L. Dollarhite, Director of Operations of the organization called the Fairfax sighting "extraordinary," saying it is unusual for mountain lions to approach urban areas. Mystery feline or common mountain lion? These panther accounts merge into those from Mt. Tamalpais and Mill Valley also in Marin County of a chattering, five foot tall, "earless mountain lion" and Bigfoot seen in 1963, 1975 and 1976. What are we to make of this swirling phantasmagoria of mysteries? Well, things get crazier way out west.

South of Marin and San Francisco, in December of 1973, a flurry of reports of a five-foot-long, 150 pound, "dark black"

(how dark can black get?) panther made it into the papers. Navy Lt. Comdr. Thomas Mantei's collie, Cleo, supposedly even treed the cat in a eucalyptus situated in a behind Mantei's San Jose hillside home.

Meanwhile, east of San Francisco, in what is generally known as the East Bay area, a series of UFO reports and black panther sightings were coming to an end. It started in the East Bay in the Spring of 1972, when two men in the space of three days called Gary Bogue, Curator of the Alexander Lindsay Jr. Museum in Walnut Creek to tell him of their sightings of black panthers. Neither knew the other, and no press coverage had stimulated the reports. One man watched the cat through binoculars when he was at home for lunch. The other witness was walking his Irish setter when the dog started barking at a large black cat up in a tree. The five foot long beast jumped out of the tree and ran off.

About twelve miles from the first reports and three weeks later, a woman and her neighbor reported they were looking out the back window, watching a black panther chase cattle. The panther also strolled over to her pool and took a drink. (We have heard this daytime pool-drinking behavior from witnesses in Southern California in 1972, and Ohio in 1977.)

Still no publicity and East Bay's cat continued to be seen. A month after the swimming pool incident, the Concord Naval Weapons Depot Commander called authorities to report a black panther on the grounds of his facility. Animal Control officers and several military personnel observed the mystery feline through binoculars. All agreed it was black and puma-sized. They called out one of the officers with his .357 magnum rifle, and the cat vanished.

During the Fall of 1972, a rancher living at the base of Mt. Diablo noticed his ducks and geese had begun disappearing. The fowl were not being ripped apart like a dog would do, but were totally devoured. The rancher and his wife also heard what sounded like heavy gutteral purring outside their bedroom window. Then one midnight, there was a loud thump on their roof, their horses made lots of fuss, and the family German shephard scratched to be let in. Well, they sure as hell knew something was up! The rancher grabbed a flashlight, went outside, and saw a large black panther turn, look at him, and walk calmly away. Tracks about five inches across were found.

The naturalist at the Las Trampas Regional Park was the next person to see "it," begining about three months after the rancher's encounter. The naturalist and others frequently saw the black panther in the company of a tawny-colored cat-like animal, chasing deer. This is not the first time two different colored mystery cats have kept company. We are reminded of the August 7, 1948, Turner boys sighting from Richmond, Indiana. The patterns of the mystery felines were and are being played out in California.

The Bay Area's phantom panthers have also shown a preoccupation with automobiles. For example, on Wednesday morning, the 19th of December, 1973, Larry Rephahn told Fremont police he almost struck a black mountain lion as it dashed

across Niles Canyon Road near Joyland Park.

Indeed, stepping back from the California accounts, what we see is part of that circle we can start measuring anywhere. The "black panthers" do not seem to be "black mountain lions." The Californian mystery cats reflect and repeat patterns found in the ufological sphere. Like UFO sightings, these cat sightings occur in waves ("flaps") and in specific locations ("windows"). 1973 appears to have been a big year around the San Francisco Bay area for sightings of large, black panther-like creatures, while at the same time, it was the "year of the humanoids," to use David Webb's phrase, elsewhere in America.

As for "windows," I have long noticed an American historical acknowledgement of weird phenomena by way of place names including the word "devil" (e.g. Devil's Kitchen in S. Illinois, Devil's Den in New Hampshire, and so forth).

Interestingly, some of the more frequent flap-related sightings of the California black panthers have taken place in the Diablo (Spanish for "devil") Valley. One booklet on the Las Trampas Regional Park noted the black cat was referred to as "The Black Mountain Lion of Devil's Hole," because it was frequently seen on the slopes of Mt. Diablo and in the Devil's Hole area of the park. (Fortean events do become part of the geography of an area, and place names can often be a key to where fruitful research may uncover important information.)

So, in a smoke screen of actual Felis concolor in California, something else appears to be going on. Flaps and window areas exist where people are viewing creatures unlike mountain lions. Mountain lions are not black; our phantom friends who vanish before being caught or killed are black. Mountain lions do not usually chase people and prowl during the day, these mystery cats do. The differences are many.

We should begin to understand these things, for as the pumas come back to the East and the picture there gets muddled and confused, so too must we come back to the basics, in an attempt to sort out the "real" from the "unreal."

Right now everyone knows there are mountain lions in California. What few people do not wish to learn is that something else is there; something, in whatever form it use to take, people have had to think of in terms of "diablo" to catalog.Δ

BIG RABBIT DEPT.

Kangaroos, Once Again...

BY DAVID FIDELER

Yes, those madcap marsupials are back, and the mystery of the elusive phantom kangaroos seems to be growing by leaps and bounds. In ARB 7, creature expert Loren Coleman and yours truly catalogued the reports from our files. We also attempted to examine other factors, such as report distribution in time (month, day-of-the-week) and space (report localities). April, then, saw publication of "Kangaroos from Nowhere" in Fate magazine, where Coleman and I traced the history of phantom roos in North America. Little did we suspect that the article's last line would be so quickly and thoroughly validated.* Indeed, the fact that a major wave of kangaroo sightings erupted in Wisconsin during the very month Fate published the article still has a handful of researchers in stitches over the Cosmic Humor of it all.

Kangaroos hopped back into the limelight during the second week of April, when a Mrs. Wilcox saw two of the marsupials, one large and one small, on the 5th in Waukeshaw, Wisconsin area. She told sheriff's officials that the animals were crossing a road when one of them was hit by a passing car, although it was able to bound away. Apparently the critter wasn't injured, because more reports - several more reports - were to issue from the area...

One week later, and only half a mile from the location of the first sighting, another kangaroo was seen, this time by Peter Haeselich, 32, his wife Jill, 25, and his mother Esther, 53, who first saw the creature. The kangaroo was first seen at 6:10 p.m., while the Haeselich's were enjoying a quiet dinner at home. It just bounded by, only 50 feet from their dining room window.

"My husband ran out the back door and saw it running - no, jumping - north to south," Jill Haeselich told reporters. The kangaroo then sped up and over a 30-foot hill, disappearing in an oak grove. To the witnesses, there could be no mistake about it: they had seen a kangaroo.

"It had to be. There's no doubt about that," Jill Haeselich said. "It was going very fast and it was really tall."

Her mother-in-law agreed, saying that the animal was 3½ to 4 feet tall, and that it was, indeed, moving at a fast clip.

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*It read: "And while that is the last known kangaroo sighting to date, it seems safe to say that somewhere in the American countryside a mystery kangaroo is just waiting to spring into action."

On April 13, one day after the Haeselich encounter, William J. Busch saw what he thought to be a kangaroo scamper across the road about 15 feet ahead of him while driving home. Busch, a social worker at the Ethan Allen School for Boys, spotted the creature on Highway 83, just south of Highway 18, around 4:45 p.m. It appeared to be about 3 feet tall.

The next scene in the saga of Waukesha's meandering marsupials is enacted on April 16. The curtain rises, and we see Mr. and Mrs. Greg Napientek driving home sometime around 3:00 a.m. They see an animal up ahead, dimly illuminated by their car headlights. It's only dim for a moment, though, and the Napienteks suddenly realize that the heretofore unknown creature is, of all things, a kangaroo.

UPI Photos

The giant kangaroo was photographed by naturalist David McGinlay just before the animal attacked. The dog with McGinlay was the hero of the encounter.

Dog saves master by nipping the tail of giant kangaroo

PERTH, Australia—(UPI)—A naturalist attacked by a giant kangaroo was saved by his dog, authorities reported Monday.

They said David McGinlay, 24, and his pet bull terrier were attacked by a kangaroo of the western gray species, one of the biggest known at about 270 pounds. The attack occurred during a weekend outing in thick bushland.

McGinlay received numerous cuts and bruises but the kangaroo bounded off into the bush when the bull terrier bit its tail.

McGinlay, an amateur naturalist, said he had just photographed the giant kangaroo when it pinned his dog to the ground.

"Then the big gray reared up in front of me," he said. "It had forearms thicker than my legs, a girth twice as thick as a man's, paws bigger than my hands and talons about three inches long.

"I was terrified. I was sure I was going to die. It lifted up a foot and tore my jeans, just grazing my shin. I started to run away but it walloped my back, throwing me nose first into the dirt and stomped me twice in the back."

It was then, McGinlay said, that his dog attacked the kangaroo and drove it off.

DETROIT FREE PRESS/TUESDAY, SEPT. 26, 1978

"We got pretty close, within about 30 or 35 yards," Napientek reported. "At that point it stood up, and I really couldn't believe what I was seeing."

The pair said that the kangaroo was three-and-a-half or four feet tall and about the color of a deer.

Mrs. Napientek thought, at first, that it might have been a deer, "until it stood up on its hind legs." The creature then jumped over a ditch and fled. "I've seen deer before. I know what a deer looks like," she affirmed. "I know it was a kangaroo."

Perhaps the Napienteks wouldn't have been as shocked by the incident if they had heard about the other reports from the area, but it was only after confiding their experience to a friend that they learned of other, previous sightings.

The next person to observe the fast-footed marsupials was Lance Nero, whose wife, Loretta, also saw one of the creatures. Nero, on Sunday, April 23, was enjoying coffee and toast at his hilltop home when he saw what appeared to be two kangaroos. The animals hopped out of a wooded area, through part of a field, and across another road. It was at this point that Lance ran upstairs and awakened his wife, who got out of bed in time to also see one of the kangaroos.

"Now that I've seen one, I'm wondering if I'm all right," she told the media.

After the sighting, some ambiguous tracks were discovered in the area. Waukesha County Sheriff's Detective Kenneth Ludwigsen said the tracks were those of a deer. Zookeeper Ray Holling said they were too large to have been left by a deer, but appeared to have been made by a split-toed animal. He didn't think that they were made by kangaroos.

Nero remained convinced.

Less than 24 hours after the Nero sighting, Tom Frank spotted a kangaroo in his backyard at 2:30 a.m. Frank told Waukesha County Sheriff's Deputies that his dog had been whimpering, and started barking at something in the yard when he let it out. When Mr. Frank investigated, he saw a kangaroo jump into the woods, and told officials that he believed he saw other kangaroos in the woods also.

Later that day, on April 24, the most interesting sighting of all took place. The witnesses, two 23-year-old camera buffs, were looking for ducks to photograph, when...lo and behold...they found a kangaroo instead. Not hot to lose out on the opportunity, the two captured Wausheka's mystery 'roo on film! The photograph clearly shows a kangaroo standing in front of a thicket, and...er...demonstrates quite graphically that <u>something</u> weird as hell was taking place in the area.

And while that is the last known kangaroo sighting to date, it seems safe to say that somewhere in the American countryside a mystery kangaroo is just waiting to spring into action.△

MORE ANIMALS

Mystery Baboon Invades North Carolina...

A REPORT BY WAYNE LAPORTE & DAVID FIDELER

On August 8, 1977 Mike Jones was driving with his 9-year-old daughter when they experienced the extraordinary. It was around 9:15 p.m., and the two were headed to a convenience store just outside the city limits of Matthews, North Carolina. Then they saw the baboon.

After turning out of their housing development, the car approached an animal walking along the road on all fours. Jones thought that it was a dog at first, until he noticed that the forefeet were larger than the rear and that the animal had an unusually long tail. The two passed by at first, but then turned back to follow the creature. Mike Jones, who'd seen baboons before in Viet Nam, said the animal was walking like a tranquilized monkey might on all fours. Mr. Jones and his daughter followed closely behind the baboon which was about twelve feet distant, and switched on the car headlights when the creature passed under a street light. The only differences between this baboon and the ones Mr. Jones saw in Vietnam involved the tail length and seat pad color; the Vietnamese baboons had shorter tails, he said, and red seat pads. The baboon he observed with Sherry, his daughter, had light tan seat pads.

While the two were following the creature, it suddenly turned and walked across the road. Making its way up a driveway, the baboon disappeared in a wooded area situated behind an area home. It was at this point that Jones contacted the police.

The police were somewhat skeptical. "At first the officer didn't believe my husband," said Mrs. Jones, 33. "Then he heard the growl."

After hearing the sound, the officer dispatched to the scene called for reinforcements. Two policemen, three animal shelter people, and several others searched for the creature. They found nothing. Officials then visited

ELUSIVE MONKEY

DOVER TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP) -- The cheif said it looked like a baboon to him. Other officers who have seen it think it may be a spider monkey. Or perhaps a chimpanzee.

Whatever it is, efforts to track it down have kept them jumping for two days.

"The switchboard has been jammed with callers who are either reporting the animal or checking their sanity."

(FROM: Sherman, Texas Democrat, June 14, 1978; CR: Tom Adams.)

a local man who keeps exotic animals, where everything was accounted for.

The day after the Jones sighting Matthews police received a telephone call from an excited mother who said her two boys saw a monkey drop out of the trees and scamper off.

The seems to have been the last that anyone had seen of North Carolina's enigmatic baboon. The Matthews area, however, was the scene of an out-of-place animal fracas several years ago when residents reported seeing a buffalo roaming hill and dale. This occurred in 1974 or 1975, and police organized bow hunters to track the animal. It was finally captured, and, yes, was a buffalo.

As for the baboon, it remains a mystery. Mrs. Jones, who just moved to Matthews with her family, expressed concern for her children. She then added, "We wanted a place in the country, but not this primitive." At least for now, she has the last word.Δ

A) Sydney, Australia Daily Mirror, October 26, 1978; CR: Ion Alexis Will.

B) Chicago, Illinois Tribune, September 5, 1978; CR: Kathy Weldon.

C) Grand Rapids, Michigan Press, September 20, 1978; CR: Philip Hemstreet.

C

Phony Dentist Pulls Teeth of Boy at Movie

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (UPI) — It was a movie theater seat rather than a special reclining chair and the man with his hands in the boy's mouth was hardly a dentist.

In fact, Sgt. Robert J. Brantley is a maintenance worker at the Fort Carson motor pool.

Brantley, 39, of Colorado Springs, is charged with three counts of practicing dentistry without a license and one count of third-degree assault.

Detective Russ Adams said Brantley was accused of identifying himself to Robert Pizzitola, 10, son of a Colorado Springs policeman, as a dentist named "Dr. Bob" on Sept. 9.

The detective said Brantley allegedly used his hand to pull four of the boy's teeth while the boy and his 8-year-old brother were watching a Walt Disney matinee.

The boy's mother said he told her he felt no pain when the teeth were pulled out, and there apparently was no bleeding. The family's dentist said he did not know how the teeth were extracted without pain.

Adams said Brantley also was suspected of pulling teeth from the mouths of two other small children.

B

5,000 pigeons vanish in thin air

AYR, Scotland [Reuters]—Five thousand homing pigeons released 150 miles from here two weeks ago have not returned, the birds' owners said Monday.

"They seem to have vanished off the face of the Earth," said James Paterson, secretary of the Ayr Federation of Homming Pigeons.

The 30 people who own the birds could not recall a precedent and said the birds' disappearance was a complete mystery.

They had been taken to Preston, England, and released on a journey that should have taken only five hours. Less than a dozen have returned home.

A

Poor pickings handed back

NEW YORK, Wednesday. — A gunman in St Louis, who took $23 from the pocket of his victim decided the sum wasn't enough and handed it back.

The robber, said to be about 20, asked the victim if that was all the money he had. When he said it was the robber said "that's not enough," and put the $23 back into the victim's pocket.

VAMPIRE REPORTS

AN MODERN HISTORY

(Marty Riccardo is one of this country's leading experts on vampiric phenomena. He is the director of the Vampire Studies Society and also edits the society's Journal of Vampirism. The excellent publication is issued quarterly, $6 yearly, from: Vampire Studies Society, Box 205, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60454. It is highly recommended for those who have a stake in this particular subject... --DF)

BY MARTIN V. RICCARDO

The word "vampire" can create powerful images in the mind, from that of a shadowy figure that ominously stalks in the night, to those comical fanged creatures with thick Lugosi accents. Because these images are associated with fantasy, many would find it hard to believe that even into the 1970's the Bucharest government in Romania has kept a file on vampire incidents. In point of fact it does, including a tape file. On one such tape there is a Romanian girl's account of how her own "deceased" father became a vampire.

It may seem incredible, but reports of vampiric activities aren't restricted to old legends or late night horror films. Unfortunately, the many misconceptions about vampires have clouded (or shrouded) the issue. In order to focus on relevant material, it would be helpful to distinguish between the more "mundane" types of vampires (relatively speaking) and those which may truly be considered "unearthly".

First of all, there are actual creatures known as vampire bats, found in areas of Latin America. An authority in the Pan American Health Organization has estimated that between one half million to one million cattle die every year as a result of vampire bat bites -- primarily from the rabies transmitted. Some consider them to be the ugliest of all bats, but despite this they are known to be rather small timid creatures. While they do feed on blood and make their rounds at night, they rarely take blood from humans. The idea of undead 'supernatural' vampires transforming themselves into bats was primarily the invention of Bram Stoker in his novel Dracula. In the European legends of the undead, there is virtually no mention of any vampire turning into a bat. (However, among the natives of Loango, South Africa, it is believed that dead sorcerers can return as bats; and among the Guayaki Indian tribe of eastern Brazil, it is said that a murderer may be confronted by his victim in the shape of a bat).

Another kind of mundane vampire is the result of the popular fictional concept of the vampire. There are individuals who begin to identify with the image of the mysterious sensual being of the night. In recent years a tall thin young man dressed in vampire attire has intermittently made appearances to one family in a suburb of Seattle, always escaping in the night in a black hearse. At one of my lectures, a man admitted to me that he liked to wear a Dracula cape and lie in a coffin. From one of my informants, I learned of a man in Germany (a Herr Lorca) who had this type of vampire fixation. He ate only raw meat, slept in a coffin, and left home only

after nightfall. He was arrested by the police after he lured a drunk into his home, bit him on the throat, and drank his blood. In 1959 a sixteen-year-pld youth in New York was arrested for his nocturnal attacks and murders. Always wearing his black cloak, he called himself "Dracula".

Still another mundane vampire type is the blood fiend -- those deranged individuals with a perverse but literal "blood lust". Perhaps the best known of these is John Haigh, a murderer executed in England in 1949 who claimed he drank a glass of blood from each of his victims before he dissolved their bodies in acid. In the early 1970's a deaf-mute laborer of Nurnberg, Germany -- Kuno Hofmann -- dug up newly dead bodies to drink blood from them, and was eventually arrested after he shot two young lovers and drank blood from the wounds. Another vampire-like fixation is an obsession with biting. For example, fifteen women were bitten in the throat in Argentina before the man responsible was captured in 1960.

Having covered the various types of "explainable" vampires, we may now deal with what may be the actual basis of the legend---real vampire attacks. The "true" vampire is described as a being that returns from the dead to attack and destroy the living, often drinking their blood. While this may sound like a remnant of a more superstitious age, the fact remains that vampire attacks are still being reported in the 20th century. The following example is an account taken by Jan L. Perkowski (a scholar in Slavic studies) from a Slavic informant in Canada: "When we were there on that farm something came to my daughter. Something came in the night and drew blood from her arm. It was a vampire...There was a sign. A ring was visible. She was weak and had all her blood drawn out." (1) Reports of this kind can still be found throughout Eastern Europe.

Before we explore these modern incidents, it would be helpful to briefly examine the history of vampire beliefs. The fear of the undead and malevolent revenants may go all the way back to prehistoric times, for some anthropologists feel that the dolmens (monuments of large stones found on graves throughout Great Britain) were intended to keep the dead from returning to attack. In ancient Assyria, a type of restless dead known as the Ekimmu was believed to feed on the blood of the living. In 12th century England, the historian William of Newburgh gave accounts of several dead men who wandered from their graves, including one report he received from a local high church official who had witnessed events surrounding a certain undead sanguisuga (blood-sucker) that decimated an entire town.

It wasn't until the latter half of the 16th century that vampire incidents became localized in areas of Eastern Europe, and then reach epidemic proportions. Through most of the old accounts, the same pattern of events can be discerned: someone dies and is buried; people report seeing and being attacked by the dead person; those grow weak, sickly, and often die; when the body of the 'attacker' is unearthed, it is found to be uncorrupted, even years after burial (as if it were merely asleep); the body is staked, burned or otherwise destroyed; and the attacks stop.

One notable case occurred in the village of Meduegna (in what is now Yugoslavia) in the 18th century. A man named Arnod Paole had fallen from his wagon and died. Within a month of his death, people in the area claimed they were being haunted by Arnod, and four people died. Forty days after his burial, Arnod's body was exhumed, and found to be fresh and ruddy, with long nails and blood smeared on its mouth. When a stake was driven through the chest, the corpse uttered a groan. There were no further attacks for some time, but about five years later there was a new outbreak in the area in which several people died in a very anemic state. An official delegation of army officers and surgeons of the Austrian Empire was sent in to examine any suspicious graves. Their medical reports, signed in 1732, stated that they found 11 bodies, buried within the previous four months, that had remained fresh, uncorrupted, and full of warm blood -- in what was termed the "Vampire condition". It couldn't have been just the soil that preserved their bodies, for another woman and her infant child, buried only 21 days, had greatly decomposed.

How could the general pattern of vampire incidents be explained -- mass hysteria, catalepsy, blood disease, madness, superstition, or a combination of these? If we were to pick a more obvious and direct answer, it would be that in some way the dead could, on occasion, attack the living. But in many ways, that idea seems preposterous. How could a "corpse" be dangerous? In this regard it should be noted that in the old beliefs of Eastern Europe, the vampire is often considered to be more of a ghostly entity rather than a walking cadaver. The same is true in modern cases of vampire attacks. This can be seen in an account told to folklorist Harry A. Senn by a woman he interviewed during a visit to Romania: "My husband had been killed on the Russian Front in World War II... One night I saw a cloudy form come through my room and go into my daughter's bedroom. I heard my daughter cry out, 'Mama, Papa's trying to strangle me.' I ran into my daughter's room and saw the same cloudy form enveloping my daughter. As I entered it disappeared." (2).

In 1950, an Ohio man is reported as having seen in his bedroom doorway "a glowing ball of light" which then took the for of his dead wife -- who had been dead for 18 years. Paralyzed, he watched her descend and devitalize him with a grotesque kiss. These attacks continued, causing an extreme weight loss and debilitation, until he eventually died of a heart attack. Prior to that, his own sister had felt something invisible on top of him during an attack, and then saw "a misty grey vaporous mass" spiral upward. (3).

Dr. Franz Hartmann recounted a case around the turn of the century in which a servant-boy to a miller in central Europe grew weak and emaciated, and at night would become paralyzed when some unseen entity settled on his chest, drawing out his vitality. The miller stood watch one night, and when the thing's presence was made known, the miller grabbed for it. Although invisible, it felt like gelatine; and it "writhed and fiercely struggled to escape, but he gripped it firmly and threw it on the fire." The attacks then ceased. (4).

Occultist Dion Fortune gave an account of how a young man felt that a "ghost" was attacking him, around the time of World War I. About the same time every evening the French window in his apartment would open by itself (even when locked or barricaded), and a chill wind would sweep in. When an occult authority or "adept" was brought in on one such occasion, he had the lights lowered, and the people there were able to see a dull glow in one corner. When they placed their hands into it, they felt a tingling sensation like that of "electrically-charged water". The adept then dispatched the entity.

It was believed that the 'vampire' in this case was the astral form of someone knowledgeable in the magical practices of South-Eastern Europe who had been killed on the battle-fields of France, and then attached himself to the young man's cousin. The cousin was a soldier recovering from what was thought to be shellshock, while actually he may have been seriously vampirized. As a result, he had once even bitten his young cousin on the neck, drawing blood. (5).

These examples clearly point up the fact that 'vampires', as they are described in modern reports, are not reanimated dead bodies, but rather entities without the limitations of a heavy physical structure. But still in some way they are often connected with someone who has died. Like the pattern mentioned earlier from the Old World legends, a corpse is sometimes (even today) found to be uncorrupted and undecayed. The vampire of Highgate Cemetery in England, which was given some noteriety in the early 1970's, could be cited. In that case, at least two women suffered from similar vampiric attacks and obsessions, two people may have been murdered, various animals were found in the cemetery with lacerated throats and drained of blood, and many people reported seeing a floating ghostly being on the cemetery grounds. Sean Manchester, an occult investigator, put one of the female victims in a hypnotic state. He then had her lead him and his group to an old vault in the cemetery. In one of the coffins they found one body so fresh-looking that one person remarked, "It's newly dead." However, no new bodies had been admitted into the hundred-year-old vault. (6).

In 1952, a French newspaper reported that the corpse of a woman who had died at age 70 was exhumed in the cemetery of Aberici di Montemarciano in Italy, and was found in a perfect state of preservation. In fact, fresh blood flowed from the left knee. And on October 5, 1963, the Magyar Memzet of Budapest, Hungary reported than an archaeological excavation in that country turned up a sarcophagus from the 2nd century A.D. Inside was found the body of a Roman soldier, buried for 1800 years, yet it was completely preserved, including lungs, cartilages -- and remarkably long teeth.

What might we deduce from the old and modern reports -- the ghost-like attacks from the deceased, and the uncorrupted corpses? One clue comes from Romania (which includes Transylvania) where the word now in current usage for vampire is "strigoi". At one time this word was used to indicate a witch that could fly in bird form at night to drink blood from those sleeping. This concept goes back to Roman times (where they were then called strix or striga). From Rome

the belief spread throughout Europe (Greece -- strigla; Prussia -- stryz; Spain -- bruxe, stryge; France -- striporta, estrie; Italy -- strega).

The feeling of flight the striga-witch might experience has affinities with a phenomenon known as the out-of-the-body experience (OBE), or what occultists term astral projection. It is an experience now being studied by parapsychologists in which a person feels he can leave the body and travel elsewhere. Robert Monroe, in his book Journeys Out of the Body, wrote that on one occasion he travelled out from his physical form to a friend and pinched her. She not only felt the pinch, but it left a black and blue mark. That simple experiment would seem to confirm that, if astral projection exists, it would be used to do harm -- and in that case might be termed "astral vampirism".

There used to be a distinction in Romania between the strigoi (living vampire-witches) and the moroi (or undead vampires). Before the two words became synonymous, it was believed the strigoi became moroi at death. Perhaps it was merely the difference between using astral vampirism above or below ground. If the living strigoi could enter a death-like trance state and be buried as if dead, they could conceivably maintain a perpetual 'unlife' in buried hibernation, making forages in astral form to get blood as sustenance in order to keep the bodies alive. (D. Scott Rogo once noted the Hindu concept of the Kama Rupa -- "the astral body of a once living agent which must gradually disintegrate unless it can nourish itself on the vitality of the living." And Bernhardt J. Hurwood once cited a newspaper report of "a lady in Paris who became a vampire as the result of being buried alive.").

One of my contacts in the Vampire Studies Society is a woman whose family has links with the 'strigoi' witchcraft tradition of Romania. She regularly had a dream of flying in the air during a full moon, and swooping down to drain blood from those below. She developed an aversion to garlic, and an overwhleming obsession to drink blood, which she obtained from "donors". At the same time her complexion grew increasingly pale and her hands cold. Just recently she started taking measures to counteract this trand, and she felt a hostile presence in her room one night. During a recent medical check-up, the nurse who was about to take blood noticed a collapsed vein in the woman's arm and said, "You've just had blood taken recently, haven't you?" Later, the woman checked her arm and found two small wounds, about 2½ inches apart.

Everyone is free to determine for themselves what these things mean. Even Fortean researchers may find vampires hard to swallow. Let us hope the reverse also holds true.△

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SHORT REPORTS

ALLIGATORS///A two foot long alligator was discovered on August 30, 1978 by a policeman who found the creature wandering the streets of the Glassboro, New Jersey area. (Carlisle, Pennsylvania Evening Sentinel, September 1, 1978; CR: Larry Arnold.)

ARCHERS, MYSTERY BOWMEN///In a bizarre episode of synchronicity, two New England cities experienced problems with mystery archers during the third weekend of October.

In Baltimore, Maryland on October 22, an unidentified bowman was killed by police after shooting arrows at passengers in the Trailways bus station. Also killed was officer Nelson Bell, 28, who was hit by a stray bullet.

At least a dozen policemen engaged in a gun battle with the bowman, which began after the man hid behind his baggage and started firing arrows at passengers.

Police spokesman Dennis Hill said the man charged at police before being killed.

"We're interviewing all the witnesses to determine what exactly happened," said Hill. "He was shouting and screaming and came out charging at police."

The archer had seven bullet wounds in his body.

Elsewhere on the East Coast, a Brookfield, Vermont man was having his own problems with enigmatic archers. And so we learn the weird Fate of farmer William Richards, who discovered one young cow wounded and a second killed by arrows. At first Richards could not find a third heifer,

but later reported to police that he found the cow in a pond, also killed by arrows.

The newspaper report abruptly ended: "The wounded cow was found with an arrow sticking out of her shoulder, and one of those killed had an arrow stuck so deep in her stomach that only the feathers were visible."

What more can we say? (Milford Daily News, October 23; Boston Globe, October 23, 1978; CR: Loren Coleman.)

BIRDS///According to the Associated Press, more than 50 dead crows were found distributed along the center line of an Atlanta, Georgia street on March 20, 1978. Authorities were puzzled.

"There ain't no way they would have walked out there and died on the center line," said firefighter J.D. Hicks.

The crows were distributed along a one mile stretch of Northside Drive.

Several weeks later the mystery was compounded when, on May 7, about 50 more black birds were discovered along a two mile stretch of Atlanta streets. (Corpus Christi, Texas Caller, March 21; San Antonio, Texas News, May 8, 1978; CR: Tom Adams.)

Meanwhile in Europe, frightened farmers and fruit growers in Chateau de Loir, France were having problems of their own... with a flock of about one million marauding starlings. The harvest in the rich wine-growing region was threatened by the birds, and concerned parties have suggested the use of explosives, nets, and noise cartriges.

Researchers say that for the past two years starlings have tended to stay in France throughout the year instead of going to northern Africa. (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Patriot, September 11, 1978; CR: Larry Arnold.)

INSECTS///Why exactly did hordes of beetles invade a section of Maine in July of this year? Helen West, a Turner, Maine housewife is among those who would like an answer. Especially after one crawled in her ear.

"I was in bed, fast asleep, when one of those bugs crawled into my ear," she told reporters. "They'll get into anything."

And Mrs. West isn't alone; one local doctor had to remove a beetle lodged in the ear of a neighbor! Even that seems to reflect a small part of the story because Richard Dearborn, an insect specialist for the state health department, said more than 100 homes in Turner, Livermore Falls, and Leeds were crawling with the critters. (Daily Courier-Democrat, July 9, 1978; CR: Tom Adams.)

It was in such a way that the insect invasion began. In Texas, the city of Greenville saw the appearance of locust swarms. The entire East Coast experienced "the worst infestation of tent caterpillers in ten years." (Herald-Banner, August 9, 1978; Extra, October 1978; CR: Tom Adams, Larry Arnold.) The most unusual case of a massive insect appearance, however, occurred in a Tulsa, Oklahoma home...

"It was a terrifying sight: the family dogs sprawled dead and covered with a blanket of thousands of blood-sucking ticks."

Thus began the UPI report which described a veritable army of ticks -- "small dark red ones, little black ones,

and gray ones as large as watermellon seeds" -- that unmercifully invaded the Ray Hubbard household.

The Hubbards awoke on the morning of August 5 to find their collie and English setter dead and "just brown with ticks." The dogs were in fine health the night before.

It seemed to those present that a vast army of ticks was marching through the home, the troops moving from east to west.

No one knew why. (Dallas, Texas Times Herald; Daily Courier-Democrat, August 7, 1978; CR: Tom Adams.)

MUTANTS///(See envelope.) His name is Freddy, named after the vet that delivered him, Fred Kuzniarek. He belongs to Charles Janek of Rockdale, Texas. A special thanks to Tom Adams for this one! (Sherman, Texas Democrat, June 14, 1978). For a fullish round-up of recent mutants and freaks see Fortean Times, issue 26.

SHARKS, WHALES///On December 9, 1977 a frozen shark delayed a Boston area trolley after the animal became wedged between the wheels. (!!) Officials had no idea as to where the shark came from, and a spokesman for the New England Aquarium said that no sharks...cough...had been reported missing.

Just as bizarre was the appearance of a 5-foot long, 80-pound killer whale. It turned up on April 23 in Watertown, Massachusetts, where the dead whale was wrapped in a blanket and left on the lawn in front of Watertown High School. The whale appeared to have been dead for less than 24 hours, police said. (Boston Globe, December 10, 1977; April 24, 1978; CR: Loren Coleman.)

THE GREAT ARB/FT SUBSCRIPTION DEAL

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